

Looking Back: A Decade of Achievement

It was July 1996. John Grisham's *Runaway Jury* topped the best seller list. The country was dancing to the "Macarena." *Independence Day* smashed the summer box office. *Toy Story* forever changed the world of animation. And *Fargo* had become an instant cult classic. The world was preparing for the opening of the Summer Games in Atlanta. Cell phones, still a bit bulky, had become cheap enough to become the fashion accessory of the season – for trendsetters and business execs.

On the national front, President Clinton was running for re-election against the White Water backdrop, which put Arkansas front and center in the news with the fraud convictions of Jim and Susan McDougal and Gov. Jim Guy Tucker.

It was in this environment that Lt. Gov. Mike Huckabee ascended to his decade-long run as governor, which set the stage for the emergence of the Department of Workforce Education as a separate agency. A lot has happened since then. The following is a sampling of some of our accomplishments and milestones:

Adult Education

- ▶ 404,837 students have enrolled in and 650,000 students have been served by adult education programs.
- ▶ 81,498 GED tests have been given; 72,275 adults earned their Arkansas High School Diploma
- ▶ The number of English as a second language students en-

rolled in at least 12 hours of classes tripled to more than 6,000 annually.

- ▶ The state hired its first ESL program advisor.
- ▶ Adult education courses became available online.
- ▶ All the paper GED records from the 1940s-1980s were computerized.

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

- ▶ 25,987 Arkansans with disabilities were employed and became tax-paying citizens after receiving services through the statewide field program.
- ▶ 14,575 customers received services in vocational training and/or medical restoration at the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center.
- ▶ 1,402 students at Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center/Career Training Institute completed training programs and obtained vocational certificates leading to employment.
- ▶ 1,500-1,750 students participated in the GED program at Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center.
- ▶ 4,458 Arkansans were served by the Telecommunications Access Program, which was expanded to provide services to people with speech impairments, severe communicative disabilities, and other disabling conditions that impact the ability to communicate effectively in the telecommunication infrastructure.
- ▶ The Creative Alternatives for Delta Transportation project pro-

DWE Timeline

Dr. Steve Franks succeeds Lonnie McNatt as director of the Vocational and Technical and Adult Education Division of the Department of Education



Act 803 abolishes the Vocational and Technical Education Division and creates the Department of Workforce Education

John C. Wyvill is named ARS commissioner
John Davidson signs on as deputy director for CTE



The AALRC moves to Little Rock
Act 652 creates the Arkansas Technical Careers Loan Forgiveness Program

vided more than 74,000 rides to 1,927 riders over 2,191,047 miles across the Arkansas Delta.

» ARS received more than \$21 million in federal grants to serve people with disabilities, purchase technology equipment, and provide professional development training for staff.

» The Increasing Capabilities Access Network provided technical assistance and information on assistive technology to more than 28,000 individuals.

Career and Technical Education

» The Arkansas Matrix for Leadership in Education was designed to integrate academic and CTE curriculum.

» The Kuder online assessment and career portfolio system was made available at no cost to schools across the state.

» A career academy pilot centered on CTE programs was launched. Today, 17 high schools offer career academies, and three junior high schools offer pre-academies.

» Jobs for America's Graduates-Arkansas was created to help at-risk CTE students graduate from high school and move on to meaningful employment or postsecondary education. The Arkansas program has experienced 800 percent growth over the past three years and has earned national recognition.

» CTE partnered with the Department of Higher Education to track CTE students through postsecondary education. This helps CTE assess how prepared the students are for higher education.

Federal Surplus Property

» FSP has donated more than \$99 million in federal financial assistance to Arkansas donees.

» An e-mail system that allows the 3,700-plus donee represen-

tatives to screen from their desk property that has arrived at FSP and place it on a five-day hold has saved more than \$1 million in postage.

» FSP boasts the third largest Small Business Administration 8A Contractor membership in the nation.

Technical Careers Student Loan Forgiveness Program

» 11 four-year public institutions, 27 two-year institutions, two technical institutes, and nine independent institutions offer approved programs.

» 280 programs/majors have been designated in the three high-demand career fields of computer/information technology, advanced manufacturing, and biomedical/ biotechnology.

» 1,457 individuals were paid as of Feb. 2, 2006.

» \$3,431,226 has been reimbursed for loan repayments since August 10, 2000 (date of first repayment).

» Students receiving loan repayments have generated an annual payroll of \$25,014,444.96.

Workforce Training

» The number of secondary area technical centers increased from 18 to 24.

» Two secondary area technical centers became a part of a higher education institution.

» Six postsecondary technical institutes merged with higher education institutions.

» Riverside Vocational Technical School transferred from DWE to the Department of Correction School District.

» The Governor's Dislocated Worker Task Force co-located with the Department of Workforce Services.

DWE Timeline

DWE moves to 409 Shall Street while Three Capitol Mall is being renovated

2000



2001

DWE moves back to the newly renovated Three Capitol Mall

George French is named deputy director for adult education

2004



2005

John C. Wyvill is appointed as director of DWE

Robert Trevino becomes ARS commissioner

